Inter al Application No

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT PCI/1[2005/000076 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61B17/80 A61B17/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ° US 2003/083694 A1 (MILLER ARCHIBALD S) 1 - 3X 1 May 2003 (2003-05-01) abstract; figures 4-8 paragraph '0003! paragraph '0032! - paragraph '0050! claims 8,9 US 6 540 769 B1 (MILLER, III ARCHIBALD S) 1,2 1 April 2003 (2003-04-01) abstract; figures 3-8 column 2, lines 34-39column 3, lines 22-25 column 4, line 8 - column 6, line 67 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but \*&\* document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed

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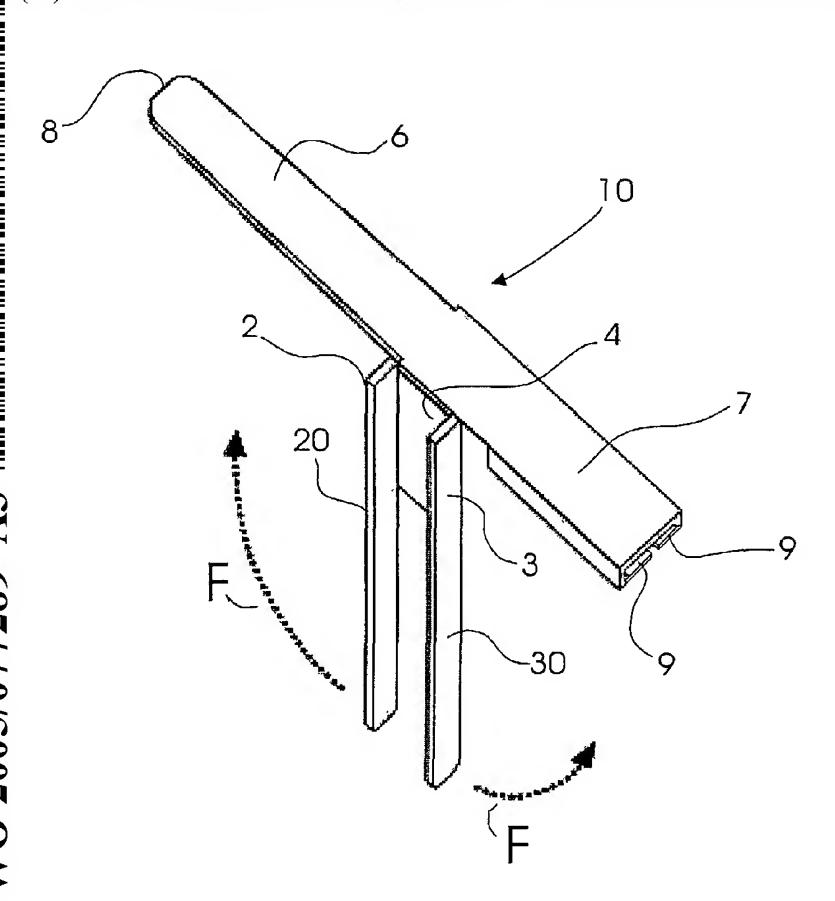
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STERNUM REINFORCING DEVICE TO BE USED AFTER A STERNOTOMY OR A STERNAL FRACTURE



(57) Abstract: A sternum reinforcing device to be used after a sternotomy or a sternal fracture, made of a biocompatible material, comprises an elongated modular member (10) with a pair of legs (20, 30), that are joined each other by a body portion (4), and a pair of arms (6, 7). The legs (20, 30) can be fitted in an intercostal space of the thorax of a patient, laterally to the sternum, and can be bent in a mutually opposite direction, on the internal side of the thorax, after being fitted therein. The arms (6, 7), extending from one side to the other of the body portion (4) and orthogonally to the pair of legs (20, 30), constitute a male part and a female part, respectively, of a prismatic type coupling for consecutive modular members.

## WO 2005/077289 A3



SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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